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EXCERPTS FROM THE MASTER'S LOG OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP *EAGLE,* LORD HOWE'S FLAGSHIP, 1776–1777.[1]

Edited by WILLIAM M. MERVINE.

The English fleet under Vice-Admiral Lord Shuldham, arrived at Staten Island, New York, July 3, 1776, with "the whole fleet of transports, victuallers, and store ships under his convoy, without any loss or separation; . . . his Majesty's troops under the command of Gen. Howe were landed on that day and the next, upon Staten Island."[2] *H. M. Eagle,* Lord Howe's flag-ship reached New York on July 13th, and continued there until about the first of August, when she sailed south as far as the Potomac River.

Following the Battle of Brandywine, September 11th, 1777, the British army entered Philadelphia, September 26th. On October 6th the *Eagle* was standing up the Delaware Bay, with the purpose of conducting the English fleet and supplies to General Howe's army in the captured city; on the seventh the flagship anchored off Chester.

As early as July of 1775 the citizens of Philadelphia had prepared to defend their city against an enemy's fleet, by placing the *chevaux-de-frize* in the bed of the Delaware between Mud Island and Red Bank, New Jersey.

Lord Howe's vessels; retarded by these obstructions, were attacked by the Pennsylvania Navy under Commodore John Hazlewood, by the garrisons of Fort

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[1] From the original log, deposited in the Public Record Office, London.

[2] *The Gentleman's Magazine* for August, 1776.

Mercer at Red Bank and Fort Mifflin on Mud Island. Count Donop was hurried across from Philadelphia by General Howe to reduce Fort Mercer, and Lord Howe sent up the *Augusta, Roebuck, Liverpool, Pearl, Merlin,* and the *Cornwallis Galley.* These vessels managed to pass the *chevaux-de-frize,* but the channel having been altered by the obstructions, the *Augusta, Merlin* and *Roebuck* ran aground near the mouth of Manto Creek. "The *Roebuck* got afloat; the firing became hot and furious, the forts joining in, and other British vessels warping up, when the *Augusta* took fire, either from hot shot or from her own guns, and her magazine exploded before all the crew could be removed, involving a considerable loss of men. The other ships were driven back, and the *Merlin* was abandoned and burnt by her own crew."[3]

The British army could not hold Philadelphia unless the Delaware was opened for the English fleet with supplies, and General Howe's efforts were now turned to the reduction of Fort Mifflin. Batteries were placed on Province Island and at other points along the shore in back of Fort Mifflin. The British ship *Vigilant* was cut down to enable her "to pass through a shallow and very confused channel on Hog Island and the Pennsylvania shore, to arrive and act upon the rear and less defensible part of the work."[4]

The Province Island batteries opened fire on Fort Mifflin, November 10th, and the garrison responded with spirit. The firing continued until the sixteenth, when the fort, after a most gallant defense, was entirely destroyed, and the commandant, Major Simeon Thayer, set fire to the ruins and retired.[5]

The following entries from the log of the *Eagle,* refer to the above events.

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[3] Scharf & Westcott, *History of Philadelphia,* Volume I, p. 363.

[4] Lord Howe's dispatch.

[5] Scharf & Westcott, *History of Philadelphia,* Volume I, p. 364.

Friday 3d, May 1776.—Fresh gales and hazy wr Saild to St. Helins H. M. Ship *Strombelo,* & several transports wth troops, the Jersey Hospl Ship also saild to St. Helens.

Mondy 6th, May 1776.—Fresh gales & Cloudy Wr. Variously employ'd A M, hoisted Ld Howes flag (Viz) White at the fore Salluted, Sr James Douglas with 13 guns, which he return'd with the same number dry'd saild Washd & Cleand between Decks.

Fridy 31, May 1776.—Hoisted a boat out and Spoke the *Malaga* transport with Hessian troops on board, try'd the Currt. found a small drain to the W'wd. Stay'd the Mainmast & sett the riggg up sett up the Topmost rigging fore & aft. Lat: Ob: 44: 33 No.

Fridy 7th, June 1776.—Fresh Breezes and foggy wr. read the Articles of war & punished Wm Lacey seaman with 12 lashes for drunkenness.

Saturdy. 8th, June 1776.—Willm. Ingerfield seaman fell from the Main Shrouds on the booms & died on the spott in 3d Reefs & handd. Brot to & spoke the *Adventure* from Portso. for Hallifax.

Mondy. 17th, June 1776.—Fresh Gales & hazey. Punished Jno. Cummins seamn with a doz: lashes for gaming.

Thursdy. 4th, July 1776.—Light breezes & hazy wr. Smoked the Ship with Spirit of Salt.

Mondy. 8th, July 1776.—Spoke a Small Schooner from Newfdld. for Nantucket who inform'd us, we were on the Soundings of Nantucket.

Saturdy. 13, July 1776.—Employ'd turning into Sandy Hook,[6] found at the Hook H. M. Sloop, *Swan* who

[6] *New York, July 15.* "Last Friday morning it was reported in town, that Lord Howe was arrived at Sandy-Hook, with a large fleet from England: Between 1 and 2 o'clock, P. M. two ships hove in sight and joined the fleet at the Watering place, about an hour after a ship, supposed to be the *Phœnix* of 44 guns, a frigate of 28, and 3 tenders; got under way at Staten-Island and stood up for this city." (*The Pennsylvania Gazette.* July 17, 1776.)

Sallut'd the Adm^{l}. which we return'd. Anchor'd under Statten Island in 10 f^{m}. Veerd away & moord a cable each way B B^{r} to S^{o} w^{d}. Town of New York N E ½N. Ferry pt. on Statten Island S b E. Bedlows Island N. N. E p E. Found lying here Vice Adm^{l}. Shuldham in H. M. Ship *Chatham* with the *Centurion, Asia, Liverpool, Greyhound,* & *Kingsfisher,* with a great number of transports Storeships Victu^{s}. &c. the Troops in possession of Staten Island all the fleet Salluted the Adm^{r}. The Sig^{l} was made for all Capt^{s}.[7]

Tuesd^{y} 30th, July 1776.—Anchored here H. M. Ship *Nijor* with a Convoy of Light horse from Halifax.

Frid^{y} 2^{d}, Augt. 1776.—Anch^{d} here the *Solebay, Borcas* & *Thunderbomb* with a Convoy of 23 Sail with troops from S^{o} Carolina.

Thurs^{y}. 8th, Augt. 1776.—Sent an armed boat to meet a Canoe from Long Island, in which were four deserters from the rebels.

Frid^{ay} 9th, Augt 1776.—The Carpenters returnd on t^{d} having finish'd their work on the Sloop which was converted into a row gallery, & mounted two twelve pounders, sent carpenters on board the *Centurion* & *Thunder* to work, saild the *Alert* Arm'd Schooner. dry^{d} sails, punish'd James Selly seaman with a doz: lashes for drunkenness.

Tuesd^{y}. 13, Augt. 1776.—P. M. made the *Chatham, Asia,* & *Solebays,* sig^{l}. for P. officer Arriv'd here Com^{re} Notham in His Maj^{s}. Ship *Preston* with the *Repulse, Emerald, Rainbow, Tamer, Carcass* bomb & *Strom-*

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[7] "By the latest advices (authenticated by the General Congress), a flag from Lord Howe was met by the Adjutant-General of the army at New York, on the 14th of July; but as the letter which was presented was directed for George Washington, Esquire; the Adjutant could not receive it. The Congress afterwards, on the 19th, resolved, That General Washington, in refusing to receive said letter, acted with a dignity becoming his station. . . . Lord Howe joined the army so long ago as the 13th of July." (*The Gentleman's Magazine,* for September, 1776.)

belo fire ships, with a Convoy of 104 Sail of transports with Hessian troops & Guards & some Victualers, the transp^{ts}. Anchor'd below the flagstaff p^{t}. under the Care of the *Orpheus* & *Greyhound* who came in from sea with them, as also did the *Niger*.

Thursd^{y}. 15, Augt. 1776.—Light Breezes and fair W^{r}. P. M. Sig^{l}. for all Lieut^{s} D^{o} the Parole sig^{l}. cleard house ½ past 11 saw a great light up the N^{o} river & several flashes which we Judg'd to proceed from firing of Guns, sent an officer to examine the Gu^{d}. boats A. M. the *Syrens* sig^{l}. for a P. officer. open'd Beef. No. 48 Cont. 154 p^{t}. over 1 p made the Sig^{l}. for Capt. of the *Flora; Chatham* & *Thunder* sig^{l} for P. Officers.

Sunday 18, Augt 1776.—At 7 A M Came down past the Town His Maj^{s}. Ships *Phenix* and *Rose,* with the *Tryal* Schooner, they rec^{d} the fire of all the Batterys as they pass'd but rec^{d} no damage made the Sig^{l} for Cap^{ts} of the *Renown* and *Repulse.* sail'd hence the *Flora.*

Thursd^{y}. 22, Augt. 1776.—Light Breezes & Cloudy made the *Phenix* sig^{l}. for the Capt. at 6 a heavy squall with thunder lightning & rain at 7 the *Phenix* & *Rose* fell down & Anchord in the Narrows at 2 A M sent all the Boats in order to land the Troops on Long Isl^{d}. at 5 the *Phenix* & *Rose* warp'd into Gravesend bay to cover the landing, the *Thunder* & *Carcas* bombs also Anchord there as did all the transports wth troops on b^{d} at 9 the Sig^{l} was made for all the boats with troops on board to advance which they did & landed the troops without the Smallest opposition.[8]

Tuesd^{y} 27th, Augt. 1776.—At ½ past 3 A M heard a Brisk

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[8] "*New York, August 26.* Tuesday last a number of ships with troops on board saild from Staten Island out of the Narrows; next day they were followed by many more, and about 10 o'clock Thursday morning, about 10,000 men landed between New Utrecht and Gravesend, on Long Island." (*The Pennsylvania Gazette,* August 28, 1776.)

firing of Musquetry on Long Island at 6 made the sig^{l}. and weigh'd with H. M. Ships *Preston.* Com^{r}. Sr Peter Parker, *Asia, Renown, Rainbow, Roebuck, Repulse* & *Mercury,* with the *Thunder* and *Carcas* bombs, Emp^{d} workg up towards New York at 9 the Ebb mak'g Strong made sig^{l} & Anch^{d}. in 7 f^{m}. Bedlows Isl^{d}. N B E ½E Red Hook N E B E ½E. Saw from the Ship, our troops attack many partys of the rebels and defeated them all.

Sunday 15th, Sep^{r}. '76.—Light Air and fair W^{r}. made the sig^{l}. for Mid^{s}. from the *Pearl* & *Emerald,* & Master of the *Thunder.* Parole sig^{l}. red & white strip'd pend^{t}. at 6, Six Transports got under way & sail'd up the E river & were fir'd at from the Town &c at 10 saw the flashes & heard the report of several cannon fir'd at the back of New York. At ½ past 6 A M made the Sig'l for the *Renown, Pearl,* & *Repulse* to get under way, they immediately weighd & made sail up the N° river at ten minutes after 7, the Batterys on York Island and those on Paulus hook began to fire on them, which they return'd, the firing continued till a quarter of a hour aftwd, at ½ past 8 they anchord up the N° river in sight of the fleet at 10 the *Renown* hoisted a Dutch flag at the fore top'g mast head, which we Answ^{d}, by a White red & blue flag at the Main D° at noon saw the smoak & heard a very heavy firing up the E river.

Mond^{y} 23^{d}, Sepr. 76.—At 2 A M saw a fire Vessel coming down the N° river which was fir'd at by our ships lying there at ½ past 4 saw a second fire vessel & soon after a third at ¾ p^{t}. 5 the *Renown* Anchord having been oblig'd to Slip her cables to avoid the fire Vessels.

Monday 23^{d}, Sepr. 1776.—At 11 the *Roebuck* & *Tartar* & *Carcas* Weigh'd but falling calm Anchord again at Noon they weigh'd again as also did the *Emerald* Boats employ'd towing the *Roebuck* towards Powlus

hook, from which place they began to fire at the Ships.

Friday 22d, Novr. 1776.—Arriv'd his Maj. Sloop *Raven* & *Cherokee* Arm'd Ship. . . The *Tamer* came out of the Et. River made the *Experimt.* sigl. for a Lt. & several other ships for P. Officers at Noon arriv'd several Transports with troops from the Wt. Indies, & an Armd. Ship from England.

Wednesday 22d, Jany. 1777.—Mod. and Clear Wr. at 9 P. M. the Alarm was given that some part of the town was on fire, hoisted the boats out, sent a party of seamen with proper officers, buckets & fire Engine on shore, got every thing ready for hauling the ship off into the Stream, at ½ past 10 the party return'd on board the fire being extinguish'd. A M at 8 saild his Majs. Ships *Solebay* & *Orpheus* at 10 saild H. M. Ships *Lively, Flora* & *Daphne.* rec'd Beer & Water by the Launch. Sail'd also the Harriet packet for England.

Friday 18th, April 1777.—Modr. & hazey Wr with small rain. P. M. arrived here a brig privateer calld the Defence, prize to the *Roebuck,* at 8 recd. information of the *Daphne's* being ashore on Robin's reef sent the Launch & other boats to her assistance.

Saturdy 19th, April 1777.—Little wind & hazey Wr sent boats to the *Daphne* for the prisoners she had on board Arrivd a Sloop privateer, prize to the *Perseus,* thick foggy Wr.

Fridy 25th, April 1777.—Fresh Breezes and Hazey Wr A M dry'd sails — — — — wash'd & Cleand between decks.

Sundy 4th, May 1777.—Capt. Roger Curtis of the *Senegal* came on board & superceded Capt. Duncan in the command of the Ship, he being appointed adjutant to the fleet.

Fridy 11th, July 1777.—Modr. & Clear Wr A M Arriv'd here H. M. Ship *Daphne* punishd John Wilson sea-

man with 4 Doz. lashes for attempting to desert to the Rebels.

Monday July 21st, 1777.—. . . . . at 4 made the Sigl. to Weigh, Weighd & Came to sail with the rest of the fleet at 6 fell calm Anchd in 13 fm point of Statten Isld.

Monday 4th, August 1777.—Bearings at Noon: Cape Henlopen N 22 : 00 N . . . the *Dispatch* returnd from chace with a schooner loaded with flour.

Tuesdy 19th, Augt. 1777.—. . . at 3 anchord with small Br in 13 fm. off the Entrance of Potomack river.

Saturday 23d, August 1777.—. . . Entrance of the river Elk.[9]

Monday 6th, Octor 1777.—Modr Weather. Standing up the Delaware bay depth of water frm 6 to 8 fm. No Mt. point of Bombay hook N W B W about 4 Miles. . . . Weighd and made up the river Delaware crossd Bombay hook flats in 4 fm Morris listens[10] high land W S W 1½ mile from shore.

Tuesdy 7th, Octor 1777.—Fresh breezes & Clear Wr passd by the *Dispatch* & her convoy at Reedy Island. depth of water from ¼ less 5 to 8 fm pass'd the *Lizard* at 3 P M off the Town of Newcastle[11] at 4 Wilmington N W b N 4 fm water the last water over Wilmington flats was ¼ less 4 fm near high water, the *Vigilant*[12] & 2 Packets in Co : at 6 Anchord off Chester with

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[9] "The moment that victory on the Brandywine opened the gates of Philadelphia to the British Army, the British fleet was in motion down the Chesapeake around Cape Charles and up the Delaware, in order that it might give, by opening our own great water course, completeness to the capture. (John William Wallace, *Colonel William Bradford*, 1884, p. 170.)

[10] Morris Liston purchased 1200 acres of land in 1680. "His name is still perpetuated in *Liston's Point.* Conrad, *History of the State of Delaware*, Volume II, p. 572.

[11] Colonel William Bradford to President Wharton, October 8, 1777. "A large fleet of vessels are now as high as New Castle." *Pennsylvania Archives.* First Series, Volume V, p. 649.

[12] *Vigilant*, armed ship; Captain Henry, 150 men, 16 guns.

B^{r} in 5 f^{m} found here the *Solebay* and *Merlin*[13] at 9 saw 2 false fires made by the Guard boat, the *Merlin* made sig^{l} for a sail in N E at 12 the Guard boats return'd A M made the *Harriot* & *Eagle* packets sig^{l}. for their Capt^{s}. saild down the river the Packets the *Roebuck*,[14] *Pearl, Liverpool* & *Camilla* dropt down the river & Anch^{d} here.

Wednesd^{y} 8th, Octo^{r}. 1777.—. . . the *Roebuck* made sig^{l} for the *Pearl, Liverpool* & *Camilla* to prepare to sail at 3 they weigh'd & Stood up the river . . . Arriv'd the *James* & *William* Hospital Ship.

Saturd^{y} 11th, Octo^{r}. 1777.—. . . a heavy cannonading in the N E ar 9 the G^{d} boats went up at 4 A M they return'd A M a heavy cannonading in N. E. clean'd below, observed several shot to be fir'd by some row Galleys at the *Liverpool.*

Sund^{y} 12th, Octr. 1777.—Mod^{r}. and Clear W^{r}. the Cannonading continues. Parole sig^{l}. Dutch pend^{t}. Anchord here the *Viper* Arm'd Schooner, sent away the Guard boats at 10 P M at 5 A M Guard boats return'd sent two 9 pounders & 30 rounds of Ammunition on bd the *Zebra*[15] the *Camilla* anchord near Darby Creek Arriv'd the *Cornwallis* Arm'd Galley,[16] a Constant firing of Cannon in the N. W.[17]

Mond^{y} 13th, Octo^{r} 1777.—Light Airs and Clear W^{r} Cleard hawse, sent 2, 9 pound^{rs} with 30 round of ammunition on board the *Merlin* at 9 Anchord the *York*

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[13] *Merlin;* 18 guns.

[14] *Roebuck*, 280 men, 44 guns. *Pearl*, 220 men, 32 guns. *Liverpool*, a frigate, 28 guns. *Camilla*, 20 guns.

[15] *Zebra*, 16 guns.

[16] *Cornwalis*, galley, with a 32-pounder.

[17] On Monday, October 13th, Colonel Bradford wrote from Fort Mifflin to President Wharton: "Yesterday morning a party of about one hundred and fifty men were landed from this Fort on Province Island, with an intent to take the redoubt, under the fire of three galleys and the floating battery. But the number of the enemy were much greater than was expected; all under cover." (*John William Wallace*, Colonel William Bradford, p. 180.)

Arm'd Sloop at 10 the *Somerset*[18] Ancho^{d} here, sent the Capt of Marines with a party on shore at Chester at 2 A M saw a fire on the water E b N and several guns firing at same time in diff^{t} directions Observ'd another fire E N E the Guns continued firing, at 6 the *Isis*[19] Anch^{d}. here, the *Roebuck, Liverpool, Pearl,* and *Vigilant,* dropt higher up the river, saw the *Roebuck* fire several guns & Musquetry, at 9 arrv^{d} the *Augusta,* the *Camilla* and *Zebra* mov^{d} higher up Tinnecum chan^{l}.

Tuesd^{y} 14th, Octob^{r} 1777.—. . . A M the *Vigilant, Camilla* & *Cornwallis* Galley fired several shot at the Rebel Galleys who row'd up the river, sig^{l}. for the Cap^{ts}. of the *Augusta* & *Somerset.*

Thursd^{y} 16th, Octob^{r} 1777.—. . . Guns firing in N. E.

Saturd^{y} 18th, Octob^{r} 1777.—Fresh breezes and Cloudy ½ past 4 P M sent the Guard boats up the river. Parole sig^{l}, a blue and white stripd pend. Guns frequently firing in the N E. A M flat boats emp^{d} landing the troops at Chester at 10 the landing completed.

Mond^{y} 20th, Octo^{r} 1777.—D^{b}. W^{r}. the *Augusta* & *Isis* weigh'd & Stood up the river the *Isis* ran aground on Tinnicum Spit, sent boats to her Assistance, Parole Sig^{l}. a red pend^{t}. at 10 sent a L^{t} with 4 flat boats & a row of Galley with Agent Chad. A M they return^{d} the *Roebuck* mov'd higher up the river as did also the *Pearl,* the *Vigilant* mov'd up Tinicum passage sent 2 flat boats on b^{d} the *Vigilant.*[20]

Tuesd^{y} 21st, Octo^{r} 1777.—Light Airs and Cloudy w^{r}. P. M. the *Isis* got off the Shoal and anchor^{d} in the stream at 4 the Rebel galleys came down & Can-

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[18] *Somerset,* 500 men, 64 guns.

[19] *Isis,* 350 men, 50 guns.

[20] "By the 20th of October a passage for the British vessels being now opened through the lower *chevaux de frize,* the brothers Howe conceived themselves prepared to attempt the capture of the two forts." John William Wallace, *Colonel William Bradford,* p 183.

nonaded the *Vigilant* & *Cornwallis* which they return'd. Parole sig^{l} a White pend^{t}. A M the *Isis* got under way & grounded on the E^{t} shore made *Somerset* sig^{l} for a L^{t}. & *Merlin* for a Mid.

Wednesd^{y} 22^{d}, Octo^{r}. 1777.—Fresh gales & Clear, the *Isis* got off and Anch^{d} in the stream Parole Sig^{l}. a blue pend^{t}. sent the boats armd up the river with provisions for the Army. *Merlin* Sig^{l} for a L^{t}.

Thursd^{y} 23^{d}, Octo^{r} 1777.—Little wind and Clear W^{r}. the *Isis* & *Merlin*[21] went up the river. *Somerset* sig^{l}. for boats to Assist the *Isis*, the *Camilla* came down Tinnecum passage, at 5 saw a firing of Musquetry & Cannon at red bank[22] whch Contin^{d} near half an hour at 6 the *Augusta, Roebuck, Pearl, Liverpool,* & *Merlin,* with *Cornwallis* Galley, got under way and fir'd at the Rebel galleys, a heavy cannonade commenc'd & Contin'd till 8 o'Clock sent several flat boats mann'd by Volunteers from transports to assist the Ships engaged, at 6 A M the *Camilla* Anch^{d} at Billingsport some Vessels went up to Assist the *Augusta* & *Merlin* which were aground[23] ½ past 6 a Cannonade began,

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[21] "A diversion was proposed to be made at the same time by the *Isis* and *Augusta*, in the eastern or main channel of the river, as well for engaging the attention of the enemy at Fort Island [Mifflin] and the redoubt [Fort Mercer, Red Bank] as to restrain the motion of the galleys and other armed crafts which had retired from the works at Red Bank, when they discovered the danger which they would be exposed to from our batteries on the western shore." Lord Howe's dispatch. Wallace, *Colonel Willliam Bradford*, p. 184.

[22] Count Donop's attack on Fort Mercer at Red Bank was in the evening of October 22d.

[23] "The change in the natural course of the river, caused by the obstructions, appearing to have altered the channel, the *Augusta* and *Merlin* unfortunately grounded some distance below the second line of *chevaux-de-frize*." Dispatch of Admiral Howe. Wallace, *Colonel William Bradford*, p. 186.

"At an early hour the next morning empty transports were making their way up from the fleet, and other preparations made for lightening the grounded vesels. It was too late, Hazlewood, the Pennsylvania navy, and Fort Mifflin were upon them."

at 8, 2 ships of war moved up towards the Rebels ½ past 10 we perceived the *Augusta* to be on fire, cannonade cont'd at 11 repeated the sig^{l}. made on board the *Roebuck* for the Ships to weigh, ¼ before 12 saw the *Merlin* on fire, at 12 the *Augusta* blew up.[24]

Frid^{y}. 24th, October 1777.—Mod^{t}. and fair W^{r}. the *Camilla* came down the river ½ past 2 P M Saw the *Merlin* blow up, Parole sig^{l}. a red & white strip'd pend^{t}. at 6 A M Anchor'd here the *Apollo,* the *Camilla* went up Tinnecum passage.

Saturd^{y} 25th, Octo^{r} 1777.—At 5 P M Sent a L^{t}. and an Agent with 16 flat boats up the river with provisions for the Army. Parole Sig^{l}. a blue & white stripd pend^{t}. ½ past 5 A M the *Vigilants* boat came down with Dispatches for the Adm^{l}. at 8 the *Nonsuch's* boat came up with Dispatches for the Adm^{l}. Foggy W^{r} with small rain.

Sund^{y} 26th, Octo^{r} 1777.—D^{o} W^{r} at 5 P M Sent an Officer with several flat boats with provision for the Army. Parole Sig^{l}. a dutch pend^{t}. sent 2 of the quarter Deck guns with 60 rounds of amunition up to Billinsport A M sent several flat boats with the Marines of this Ship & *Somerset* also a part of the 71 Reg^{t}. up to Billinsport, three transports saild up the river, cleard hawse, the Pearl fird several shot at the Rebel Galley.

Thursday 30th, Octr 1777.—Mod^{r} and Cloudy sent 28 flat boats up the river with provisions for the Army, at 5 A M they return'd, sig^{ls} for Mid from the *Somerset*

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[24] A volume of thick smoke "rising like a pillar, and spreading from the top like a tree," was seen ascending to the heavens. The region for leagues around, rocks as if riven by an earthquake. Windows miles away are broken. The magazine of the *Augusta* has exploded, and her men are torn into pieces, or, blown into the air, meet death by falling into the river and being drowned. The magazine of the *Merlin* soon follows. These successive explosions were so disastrous to the British fleet that only three boat-loads of men were saved from the well-manned vessels." Ibid., p. 187.

employd Securing the Main yard for getting some of the Lower deck guns out.

Saturd^{y} 1st, Novr. 1777.—Sent 26 flat boats & the Galley with prov^{s} up the river for the Army. A M Carpenters emp^{d}. repairing the Launch, also in fitting a Sloop to carry cannon, rec^{d} some wood on b^{d}.

Sund^{y}. 2^{d}, Novr 1777.—The *Somersets* boat bro^{t}. out 3 Deserters from the Rebel army.

Tuesd^{y} 4th, Novr 1777.—At 11 P M Sent the flat boats wth Baggage & Amunition for the Army at 7 A M heard several guns fir'd to^{ds} S W cut up the outer small B^{r} cable, to Barricade some Armd Vessels.

Thursd^{y} 6th, Novr 1777.—The Ships above & *Cornwallis* Galley cannonading the Jersey shore, at 12 sent flat boats with Baggage &c for the army.

Saturd^{y} 8th, Novr 1777.—Mod^{r}. & fair W^{r} got three of our 18 p^{drs} into the Sloop, rec^{d} Seamen Volunteers for the King's service from the Victuallers & transports. Parole sig^{l}. blue & white strip'd pend^{t}. Saw (at 10 P M) a firing of Cannon & Small Arms heavy, E B N ½ past 1 A M 11 flatt boats went up to the army.

Mond^{y} 10th, Novr 1777.—A Cannonading from Province Island at 10 A M Anchord here the *Cabot* Arm'd brig.[25]

Tuesd^{y} 11th, Novr 1777.—Squally with rain. Cleard hawse A M Mod^{r} and fair with frost. Saild up the Tinnecum passage the Armd Sloop commanded by L^{t}. Botham, made the *Experiments* sig^{l}. for a L^{t}. at 11 the *Vigilant* got under way, made her sig^{l} to Anchor again, & repeated it with 7 guns.[26]

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[25] The British "batteries on Province Island opened fire on Fort Mifflin, November 10th, killing Lieut. Treat, wounding many, and damaging the defences and barracks." Scharf and Westcott, *History of Philadelphia*, Volume I, p. 363.

[26] "In addition to the erection of the battery on Province Island intended to play on the rear of Fort Mifflin, and, as Admiral Howe tells us, *on the galleys* and other armed craft, the squadron from the British fleet had come up the river." Wallace, *Colonel William Bradford*, p. 183.

Wednesdy 12th, Novr 1777.—Fresh breezes and fair, much firing of Cannon up the river. Anchord here several transports, Parole sigl a blue pendt. A M got down topgt. yds at 9 Anchd here H. M. Ship *Bristol.* The forts, *Somerset, Isis,* & *Galley* firing.

Thursdy 13th, Novr 1777.—Cloudy Wr Anchd here several transports. Parole sigl; a yellow pendt. sent up the river some flat boats with Artillery Stores, A M our forts on Province Island and the *Isis* Cannonading.

Saturdy 15th, Novr 1777.—A M Sent several flat boats up the river under Comd of Captt Reeve, much firing up the river from the forts & ships.

Sundy 16th, Novr 1777.—At 1 A M Saw a great fire on Mud Island[27] & heard several Cannon fir'd. Cleard hawse. made the *Bristol* sigl for a Lt. Saw the English Colrs on Mud forts.

Wednesdy 19th, Novr 1777.—Clear frosty Wr. recd. from the *Nonsuch* 100 barls powder. Parole sigl. a blue pendt. recd. some powder from the *Nonsuch* at Noon sent 29 flat boats under Comd. of Lt. of the *Bristol* with provs. for the Army, up Schuylkill.

Fridy 21st, Novr 1777.—Do Wr Parole sigl Strip'd red & white pendt. at 5 A M Saw a fire[28] in the N E & heard the report of Cannon & Musquetry at 9 up topgt yds.

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[27] The fort having been destroyed, after the fight of six days, Major Thayer "evacuated his no longer tenable post, carried off his wounded, stores, and garrison, set the ruins of the fort on fire, and retired, in the blaze to Red Bank. It was the most gallant defense of the war." Scharf and Westcott, *History of Philadelphia,* Volume I, p. 364.

[28] This was the burning of the American boats. The evacuation of Fort Mifflin left the American fleet between the English war ships and the British batteries in Philadelphia. Twenty-five of the boats managed to pass the city at 3 A. M., October 21st. "An attempt was made to get the Continental fleet up but failed, and its vessels *Andrea Doria, Xebex,* &c., with the Province ships and the two floating batteries, were set on fire and burned. The State Navy wintered at stations along the river." *Pennsylvania Archives,* Second Series, Volume I, p. 253.

Thursd^{y} 4th, Decr 1777.—Got on board our Six lower decks guns that were on the battery of Province Island.

Frid^{y} 5th, Decr 1777.—At 10 Saw a large fire in N N E A M Saild up to Billinsport H M Ship *Experiment.*[29]

Decr 1777.—Light Airs. came down the river & Anch^{d} here H M Ship *Isis.* Unbent the Topsails & Coarses & bent New ones. Anchd here the *Stanley* Arm'd brig. Parole sig^{l} a Dutch pend^{t}. A M made Agent Tolmand sig^{l}.

Tuesd^{y} 9th, Decr 1777.—Light Breezes and hazy. Cleard hawse. Emp^{d} working up Junk. Saild up the river to Philadelphia several ships from New York.

Wednesd^{y} 10th, Decr 1777.—Sent 26 Invalids on board the *Grosvenor.*

Thursd^{y} 11th, Decr 1777.—The Marines return'd from Billinsport.

Wednesd^{y} 24th, Decr 1777.—Mod^{r}. and Cloudy W^{r} at 3 P M Weigh'd & made sail at 4 . . ½ past 10 anchord off New Castle.

Friday 2^{d}, Jany 1778.—At Noon Anch^{d} with small B^{r} in 5½ f^{m} in the harb^{r} of Rhode Island.

Captain's Log of H. M. Ship Eagle.

Sunday 5th, Septem^{r} 1777.—At 4 the light House of Cape Henlopen N W ½ N. 3 or 4 Leagues. At 7 the *Dispatch, Stanley* Brig, the *Thames* & a Convoy from New York Joined Company; At 10 Anchored with the Best Bower, in 10 fathom. At ½ past 8 Weighed and made Sail, with the *Vigilant,* the Boats employed ahead, Sounding.

Monday 6th, Septem^{r} 1777.—Standing up the Bay of Delaware.

Thursday 16th, October 1777.—At 5 P M Received a New Bower Cable from the *Adventure* Store Ship.

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[29] *Experiment,* 50 guns.

At 6 Made the Parole Signal, and the Signal for the Captain of the *Carysfort,* At 11 Sent a Flat Boat to row Guard. At Noon observed Guns to be fired from the Red Bank, and Rebel Colours flying.[30]

Tuesday 21st, October 1777.—½ past 4 observed some Rebel Vessels to fire on the *Vigilant* & *Cornwallis* Galley the Galley advanced and returned their fire.

Thursday 23rd, October 1777.—Little Wind and Clear Weather. At 4 P M the *Camilla* got under Sail & Stood down Tinicum Channell. At 5 observed the firing of Musquetry, at red Bank which Continued about ¼ of an hour. At 6 the *Augusta, Roebuck, Pearl, Liverpool* and *Merlin,* Weighed and fired several Shot at the Rebel Galleys a heavy Cannonade Commenced and Continued till near 8 o'clock. At 7 sent several Flat Boats Manned by Volunteers, to assist the Ships Engaged. At 6 A M two or 3 Vessels went up to assist the *Augusta* who was a Ground a Cannonade began. At 8 two of the Ships of War weighed and Stood towards the Rebels ½ past 10 Saw the *Augusta* take fire the Cannonade Continuing ¼ past 11 repeated the Signal made on board the *Roebuck* for the Ship to Weigh, ¼ before 12 Saw the *Merlin* on fire, the *Augusta* blew up.

Saturday 25th, October 1777.—At 5 Sent Boats with Provisions for the Army. At 9 A M the flat Boats returned from Philadelphia, bringing Troops of the 71st Regiment from Bow Creek, which was sent in Different Transports.

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[30] Fort Mercer.